WASHINGTON, DC—Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-Springfield) today sent a letter to the Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Joseph Boardman, asking the FRA to evaluate recent engineering reports the Central Oregon and Pacific Railroad (CORP) used to justify the immediate closure of the rail line between Coquille, Oregon and Vaughn, Oregon.

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DeFazio also asked the FRA to perform a physical inspection of the line and evaluate what, if any, repairs are necessary to make the line safe for operation. The FRA has had this CORP line under compliance review since December 2005 and last inspected the line in October 2006.

While there were known problems with the line, CORP never communicated with its customers or the Oregon Department of Transportation that the line had deteriorated so badly that an emergency closure might be necessary. The line is critical to shippers and industry along the south coast of Oregon. Yesterday, Georgia-Pacific announced it is stopping operations at its Coos Bay sawmill and that this stoppage is related to CORP's embargo of this line.

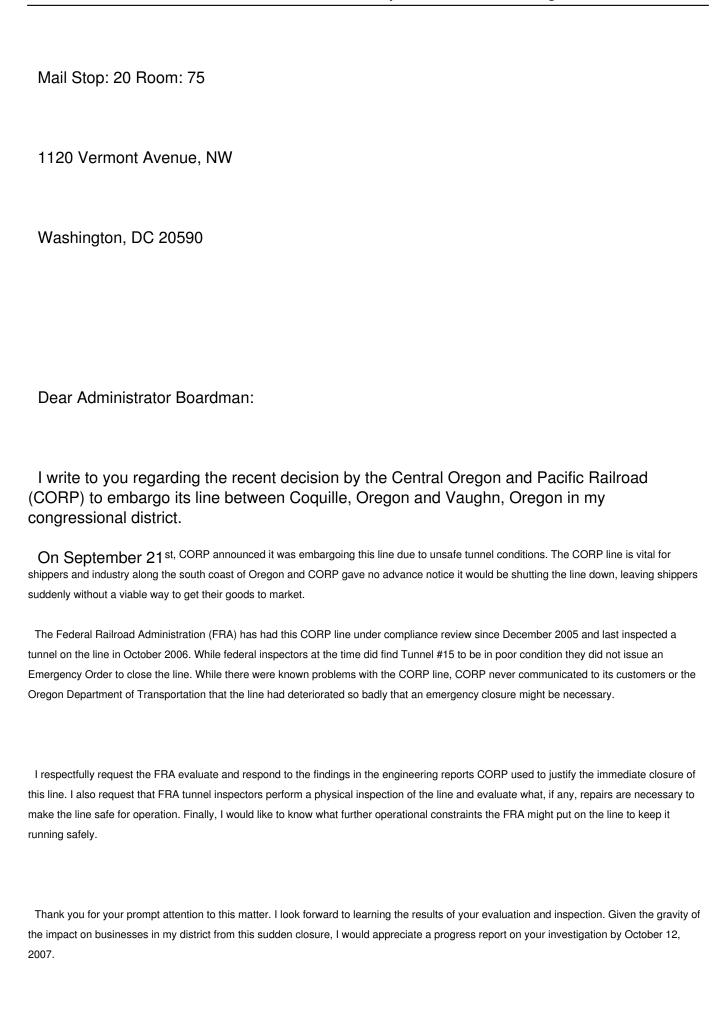
A copy of DeFazio's letter follows.

September 26, 2007

The Honorable Joseph Boardman

Administrator

Federal Railroad Administration



Sincerely,		
PETER A. DEFAZIO		
Member of Congress		
Member of Congress		

DeFazio Asks Federal Railroad Adminstration to Inspect Tunnels of Embargoed Rail Line